

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on August 1, 2003.

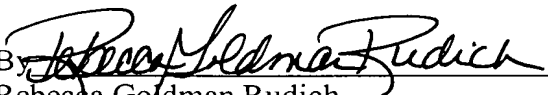
Claims 6-12 are pending in the current application.

Applicant amends claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 6-12, are allowable over the cited references. In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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